

◆◆◆ **THE BLACK CAULDRON** ◆◆◆

**COURSE PLAN METHODOLOGY:** *The Black Cauldron* by Lloyd Alexander is represented by the abbreviation BC. Each weekly assignment is summarized in the first lines of the week's daily course plan. Each weekly assignment is summarized in the first lines of the week's daily course plan. The specific daily assignments are outlined in the following lines indicated by the **MON**, **TUES**, **WED** and **THUR** abbreviations. **The chapter study questions, chapter vocabulary and glossary are located in the Elementary Literature Study Question booklets available for purchase from Kolbe Academy.** Answers should be given in complete written or oral sentences. We suggest reading the weekly written assignment to the student at the beginning of the week. The student should write the assignment down on a note card (to be used as a bookmark) so that he can think about the assignment as he reads. The written assignments are suggested to be started on Thursday after the reading is done and completed by the following Monday. As the teacher, be sure to review the final exam **now** to ensure all concepts are covered with your student as he reads the book.

All the Final Exam questions will be taken from the notes listed in these course plans and the Study Questions in the Elementary Literature Study Question booklet. Each week includes a "memory gem." If the student repeats the phrase a couple of times a day each week, he will improve his memory skills, increase his repertoire of phraseology, and prepare for one of the parts of the final exam at the same time. Encourage the student to pay attention as he reads the quotation in the text, so he understands the context. He can also earn extra credit by knowing these quotations for the final.

A pronunciation guide can be found at the end of the book, and a map is located at the beginning of the book. Encourage your student to use the resources as he reads the story to get a better sense of place and improve his pronunciation skills.

*The Black Cauldron*, a Newberry Honor book, is a tale of where the heroes use virtue to fight not only evil villains, but also evil within themselves. It is set in Medieval times where people lived in a feudal existence. An evil king is using a magic cauldron to create an army of mindless slaves who cannot be killed. Men from the surrounding kingdoms join together to find and destroy the cauldron, but things do not go as planned. This book is the second book of the Chronicles of Prydain series.

**Human Characters:**

**Taran** assistant pig keeper

**Dallben** an enchanter with a white beard

**Ellidyr** an arrogant prince with brown hair and black eyes, son of Pen-Llarcaw

**Coll** a stout, bald man; Eilowy, a golden-haired princess who lives with Dallben and cooks

**Gwydion** the mightiest of princes with green eyes and gray hair

**Doli** a red-haired dwarf with red eyes who can become invisible;

**King Eiddileg** king of the fair fold

**King Smoi** a very scarred warrior with red hair and beard

**Adaon** a tall, brave, gray-eyed man with shoulder-length, black hair, and son of Chief Bard Taliesin

**King Morgant of Madoc** a brave, regal-looking warrior

**Arawn** evil lord of Annvin

**Arianlyn**, Adaon's betrothed  
**The Huntsmen** vicious, magically strong men  
**King Eiddileg** king of the fair folk  
**Gwystyl** one of the "Fair Folk" who mans a way post near Annuvian

**Other Characters:**

**Hen Wen** an oracular pig  
**Gurgi** a hairy, dirty creature who can speak  
**Melyngar** Gwydion's steed  
**Melynlas** Melyngar's colt  
**Islimach** Ellidyr's steed  
**gwythaints** Arawn's ferocious messenger birds

**Weaponry/Important Articles:**

**Dyrnwyn** a black sword carried by Gwydion  
**The Book of Three** a large book that holds Dallben's secrets

WEEK 1	
<p><b>Memory Gems:</b> 1) "There is greater honor in a field well plowed than in a field steeped with blood."                      2) "The more we find to love, the more we add to the measure of our hearts."</p>	
BC	<p><b>Chapter 1 - Chapter 4.</b> Have the student look up all the vocabulary words for Chapters 1-4 in the glossary prior to reading. The student may want to make his own crossword puzzle with his own clues for ten of the words either by hand or by using Puzzlemaker at the following link: <a href="http://www.puzzlemaker.com/CrissCrossSetupForm.html">http://www.puzzlemaker.com/CrissCrossSetupForm.html</a>. Study questions may be completed as the student reads or at the end of the week when reading has been completed.  <b>Written Assignment:</b> Read this week's Memory Gems. Choose one of them, and explain what it means to you in your own words. (minimum, 1 paragraph)</p>
MON	<p><b>Read Chapter 1 and answer Study Questions. Chapter 1.</b> Many warriors and kings gather together for the council at Caer Dallben. Here they learn that an evil king is making ready for war.</p>
TUES	<p><b>Read Chapter 2 and answer Study Questions. Chapter 2.</b> Gwydion divides the men up according to his plan of attack. Doli, Gwydion, Coll, Ffewddur, and 6 warriors will be going in through the back door. King Morgant and his men will attack the Dark Gate. King Smoit and his men will wait near the Forest of Idris. Taran, Ellidyr, and Adaon will guard the pack animals and secure their retreat.</p>
WED	<p><b>Read Chapter 3 and 4 and answer Study Questions. Chapter 3.</b> The brave warriors set out to travel to the Dark Gate. Along the way, they meet no resistance, which is unsettling. The enmity between Taran and Elidyr almost ends in tragedy, but Ellidyr saves Taran and Taran accepts a larger portion of the blame in the end. Adaon has disturbing, possibly prophetic dreams, but Taran hopes they are only just dreams. <b>Chapter 4.</b> Taran and his fellow campers are surprised by guests in the night. Once they have worked out an arrangement for the guests, however, Doli and Ffewddur burst into the camp. They all must retreat to Caer Cadarn. They make ready to leave, but are attacked.</p>
THUR	<p>Complete the written assignment (see above) in a minimum of 1 paragraph, due Monday.</p>
<p>Notes</p>	